Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/552,887	KOWALICK, GREGORY	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Harish T. Dass	3628	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *04/14/2006*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-12,14,15 and 17-31*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

 * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

 Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____ .
7. ☑ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☑ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

HYUNG SOUGH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 13, 16 and 32 are canceled.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gary Green (Attorney Reg. No. 38,897) on 5/25/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 line 22 has been amended by replacing "it" by – said biometric sample input --

Claim 17 line 20 has been amended by replacing "it" by – said biometric sample input --

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Registering a player comprising the steps of inputting at least one biometric sample of the player into the registration biometric input means, storing unique biometric data created by the biometric input means in the central data repository but not associating the unique biometric data with other details of identity of the player,

inputting into the payment input means an amount of money, creating a unique play's account in central computer associated with the al least one biometric sample of the player and storing the amount of money input in the unique player's account as recited in independent claims 1, 17 and 24.

Prior art US 5902983 (Crevelt et al.) discloses a gaming machine with apparatus necessary to send "limited" fund requests to and receive authorizations from an EFT system. Specifically, all such requests for funds are limited to a preset amount. Thus, if a player uses an EFT transfer to obtain playing credit, that credit will be limited to the preset amount. For example, if a player is playing a quarter slot machine, the preset credit may be twenty dollars, while if the player is playing a dollar slot machine, the preset credit may be one hundred dollars. In practice, the player will insert his or her ATM card (debit card), key in a PIN number, request playing credit, and receive the preset amount of such credit. The player will not be given the opportunity to select an amount of playing credit other than the preset amount. Thus, the player is unlikely to financially over extend himself or herself when playing a gaming machine of this invention because there is a conscious decision made each time more funds are required to continue game play once a player has used up previously credited amounts.

WO 97/15032 (Bozzo) discloses a system for authentication and management of registered credit instrument, where the system includes personalized document incorporating microprocessor suitable to store personal identification code (CIP) of holder and numeric information associated to biometric characteristics of same holder, device for issuing personalized document to the holder, device for issuing registered credit instruments (12) or documents and device for validating use of registered document, all of which are either associated or not associated to an information system (SI) and provided with device for acquiring at least one biometric characteristic of the holder. The information is associated to a mathematical expression or algorithm of the data related to the fingerprint of at least a live finger of the holder of the personalized documents, and a personalized card or smart card containing microprocessor in general. E.g. for bank or credit card transactions. Card stores user ID data including biometric data such as fingerprint, and account details.

NPL – N/A

Each of the prior art taken alone or in combination failed to teach or suggest the above features recited in independent claims 1, 17 and 24.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harish T. Dass whose telephone number is 571-272-6793. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM to 4:50 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Sough can be reached on 571-272-6799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Harish T Dass
Examiner
Art Unit 3628

5/25/2006

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